

by Mr. G. Coghill, orchids in bloom, *Pterostylis præcox*, *P. nutans* and *P. concinna*; by Mr. A. Coles a very fine *Ornithorhynchus* twenty-three inches long, also Victorian game birds; by Rev. A. W. Cresswell, fossils from Lilydale; by Mr. J. E. Dixon, older pliocene fossils from Cheltenham; by Mr. C. French F.L.S., exotic coleoptera, family *Cetoniidæ*, orchids in illustration of paper, and cabbage moth in various stages; by Master C. French, fossils from Cheltenham; by Mr. J. H. Gatliff, Victorian shells, eighteen species of family *Veneridæ*; viz., *Rupellaria* (3 sp.), *Tapes* (1), *Venus* (6), *Cytherea* (4), *Meroe* (1), and *Dosinia* (2); by Rev. J. J. Halley, specimens of limestone from the Great Pyramid; by Miss Halley, nests of weaver bird, India; by Masters Hill, Victorian lepidoptera; by Mr. H. W. Hunt, Victorian birds' eggs; by Mr. H. Kennon sea-gulls (living) from Warrnambool; by Mr. W. Kershaw, Australian lepidoptera; by Mr. T. A. Forbes-Leith, eighty-four Victorian birds representing thirty families; by Mr. A. H. S. Lucas, M.A., Victorian *Asteridæ*, and plants and shells from Wilson's Promontory in illustration of paper; by Mr. D. McAlpine, frog in first stage of new process of dry preservation; by Mr. F. Reader, plants from Studley Park, (*Coniferæ* to *Amaryllidæ*); by Mrs J. Simson, painting on cobweb from Innsprück, and picture in colored sand from Isle of Wight; by Miss Mary Simson, a flying mouse from Langi Kal Kal, Victoria; by Mr. A. Thie, English Ammonites; by Mr. H. Watts, a number of objects under the microscope.

After the usual *coversazione* the meeting terminated.

EXCURSION OF THE FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB.

THE last excursion prior to the annual meeting of this Club took place on Saturday, May 9th, under the leadership of Mr. C. French, the locality chosen being as stated in the annual report, Brighton, because of its convenience and correspondingly superior resources, which in the short autumnal days and the little time at the disposal of members leaving by the 2 p.m. train, is of great consideration. Briefly then, the members left Melbourne by the 2 p.m. train, and on its arrival at Brighton, it was found that notwithstanding the threatening appearance of the weather, there was a fair attendance, including two lady members of the Club. To save time in walking, a conveyance was in readiness, and drove the party to within a few hundred yards of the Red Bluff Hotel, when a start was made inland. Plants in bloom were but few, although we soon came across a patch of damp, heathy country, in which grew quantities of the plants usually to be found in the district. *Pterostylis aphylla*, and

Eriochilus fimbriatus, were here in considerable numbers, and were secured for the purpose of either cultivation or herbaria. Proceeding onwards towards the hills, we find our old favorite *Styphelia humifusa*, in full bloom, its beautiful crimson tubular-shaped flowers rendering it a general favorite. Several specimens of the *Prasophyllum* found on last trip were also seen, and as this small species may not be either *P. archeri*, or *P. intricatum*, a sharp look-out in the early part of April next, should be kept. As we steer towards the flat or swamp known to old colonists as the Hawk's nest, we pass numerous specimens in flower of *Monotoca scoparia*, and *Epacris impressa*, which by the way reminds us that it was only about two miles from this spot, where was found the first specimen known of the beautiful "double white" variety of this species, and which now is, or was, in the collection of Mr. Scott, of the Royal Nursery, Hawthorn. Birds hereabouts are few, although we were informed that there were quail to be found not far from us, and a few specimens of the Honey-eaters, *Meliphagidæ*, some little Wrens, and a bronze-winged Pigeon, were about the only "land birds" seen. As the afternoon wore on, and we were anxious to do what we could, after collecting a few specimens of the common but very curious lichen, *Cladonia retipora*, which was in fine fruit, and three specimens of *Pterostylis nana*, (the only ones seen during the trip,) we steer a bee-line for the coast, collecting on our way bouquets of wild flowers, as *Epacris*, *Styphelia*, *Banksia*, *Acacia suaveolens*, which together with the curious bronzy-coloured *Restiaceæ Hypolana fastigiata*, made a very pretty bunch, in which the *Correas* and *Hibbertias* were prominent. The belt of scrub being reached, a search was made for the early orchids, and very soon was found *Pterostylis vittata*, and *Acianthus exsertus*. The *Jungermannia* were seen, but as it is too early for fruiting specimens, they were passed, or left for a future occasion. To those interested in spiders, it may be mentioned that a very fair collection might be made in the district, and some of these species are very handsome. As it was now getting dusk a start was made for the Red Bluff Hotel, and although barely able to distinguish one plant from another, several pretty mosses and huge *Polypori* were seen, in company with numerous other fungi. A specimen of *Lasiopetalum Baueri*, now somewhat rare about Melbourne, was here found growing just above high water mark, near which were specimens of *Lobelia anceps*, *Salicornia*, *Aster*, and other sea coast plants. On reaching the hotel, the conveyance being in waiting, the railway station was reached in good time, and thus a very pleasant afternoon had been passed. It is to be hoped that during the present year of the Club's existence, these excursions will be better attended as much may be gained thereby physically as well as intellectually. Melbourne was reached at about seven o'clock.